

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-15 (canceled).

16. (previously presented) A method of reloading a graft into a sheath introducer, comprising:

providing a graft having a distal spring portion;

providing a sheath introducer including a spool apparatus having a hand crank, wherein the spool apparatus includes a plurality of suture loops connected to the distal spring portion;

rotating the hand crank, thereby collapsing the distal spring portion into the sheath introducer.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the hand crank is rotated in a counterclockwise direction during the rotating step.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
performing an angiogram.

19. (currently amended) A method of positioning a bifurcated graft within a contralateral iliac vessel, comprising:

providing a bifurcated graft housed within a sheath introducer, wherein the graft includes a contralateral limb and a primary limb;

deploying firstly the primary limb of the graft from the sheath introducer into the aorta; and

deploying secondly the contralateral limb from the sheath introducer after [[when]] the sheath introducer has been withdrawn past a [[the]] graft junction of the bifurcated graft ~~contralateral iliac vessel~~ such that the contralateral limb is directed downward into the contralateral iliac vessel, wherein the contralateral limb is radially retained independent of the sheath introducer.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
positioning the contralateral limb using an insertion catheter.

21. (new) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
breaking a radial retaining device about the contralateral limb once the graft is in position.

22. (new) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
inserting a sheath introducer into the contralateral limb;
deploying an extension graft for the contralateral limb from the sheath introducer;
and
mating an end of the extension graft with the contralateral limb of the bifurcated graft.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising:
positioning the extension graft using an insertion catheter.

24. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising:
breaking a radial retaining device about the extension graft once the extension graft is mated with the contralateral limb.

25. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the extension graft includes an adjustable length portion.

26. (new) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

adjusting a length of the extension graft within the contralateral iliac vessel.

27. (new) A method of positioning a bifurcated graft within a contralateral vessel of any bifurcated artery, comprising:

providing a bifurcated graft housed within a sheath introducer, wherein the graft includes a contralateral limb and a primary limb;

deploying firstly the primary limb of the graft from the sheath introducer into the primary vessel; and

deploying secondly the contralateral limb from the sheath introducer when the sheath introducer has been withdrawn past a graft junction of the bifurcated graft such that the contralateral limb is directed distally into the contralateral vessel wherein the contralateral limb is radially retained independent of the sheath introducer.

28. (new) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

positioning the contralateral limb using an insertion catheter.

29. (new) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

breaking a radial retaining device about the contralateral limb once the graft is in position.

30. (new) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

inserting a sheath introducer into the contralateral limb;

deploying an extension graft for the contralateral limb from the sheath introducer;

and

mating an end of the extension graft with the contralateral limb of the bifurcated graft.

31. (new) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

mating the extension graft to the contralateral limb using an insertion catheter.

32. (new) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

breaking a radial retaining device about the extension graft once the extension graft is mated with the contralateral limb.

33. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the extension graft includes an adjustable length portion.

34. (new) The method of claim 33, further comprising:

adjusting a length of the extension graft within the contralateral vessel.